

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KINO, et al  
Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) Divisional of U.S. Patent  
Application 09/663,795, filed September 18,  
2000  
Filed: Herewith  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACIDS BY  
FERMENTATION  
Group of Parent: 1651  
Examiner of Parent: H. Lilling

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 21, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to  
examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On the title page, delete the abstract.

Page 1, before line 1 "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION",  
insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Divisional Application of  
Application Serial No. 09/663,795 filed September 18, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1 - 7.

REMARKS

This application is a Divisional Application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) of Application Serial No. 09/663,795, filed September 18, 2000. The specification is amended to include a cross-reference to the prior application and to cancel Claims 1 - 7, which were the elected claims in the parent application.

The Divisional Application contains Claim 8 - 14, which were non-elected claims in the parent application.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above-presented amendments, and examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

Kindly charge any additional fees due, or credit overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135. (File No. 506.39083VX1) .

Respectfully submitted,

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RTW/RTW:lcb